

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF IRENE GENEVIEVE STRANGIO

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an extraordinary woman, Irene Genevieve Strangio, who died at the age of 89 in Mountain View, California, on October 21, 2013. Her beloved Mountain View community was the beneficiary of so much of her brilliance and activism, and our world is a better place because she graced it.

Irene Strangio was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Robert and Irene Thornton and was the eldest of seven siblings. Irene made Mountain View her home and gave it her all. Known for her generous heart, she often shared with family and friends her artistic talents, knack for journalism, and popular kitchen abilities. As a trained R.N. she dispensed professionalism mixed with caring, and her work ethic shined through anything she set her mind to.

Irene was the loving mother of five children: Marie, Jes, Elizabeth, Michael, and Janis, and the devoted grandmother and great-grandmother to many. She leaves behind countless friends and I feel privileged to count myself among them. Irene, her husband John who predeceased her, and their family have been my friends since 1966.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to the entire Strangio family who mourn the passing of this great and good woman. I'm deeply grateful to have known Irene and even prouder to call her my friend. Through her integrity, decency and wisdom, she strengthened each of us and made our community and our country better.

### RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

**HON. AARON SCHOCK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize November as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. Palliative care focuses on relieving the pain, stress and symptoms of a serious illness while hospice focuses on caring for a patient based on his or her own unique needs and wishes. In 2012, an estimated 1.6 million individuals received hospice services including home based care, continuous home care, general inpatient care for pain control or complex symptom management or inpatient respite care.

Unlike care delivered at a hospital, the hospice team consists of a group of individuals

whose goal is to provide support for both the patient and the patient's family. As the Safe Haven Hospice in Lincoln, Illinois says "hospice is about adding life to [one's] days."

The U.S. hospice movement was founded by volunteers who play an instrumental role in hospice care. In 2012, an estimated 400,000 hospice volunteers provided 19 million hours of service. One of those volunteers is a constituent of mine who became involved following the unexpected death of her son.

Hospice volunteers like this individual support and enhance the hospice care team. In fact, hospice is the only provider whose Medicare Conditions of Participation requires volunteers to provide at least 5 percent of total patient care hours.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the important work of hospice and palliative care providers and volunteers in their communities during National Hospice and Palliative Month.

### RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 ARTS COUNCIL OF FAIRFAX COUNTY ARTS AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2013 Arts Awards presented by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as the individuals and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency to promote all forms of art. The Arts Council operates programs and initiatives that include grants, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations. In FY13, the Arts Council awarded grants to 62 organizations and 3 artists, funded more than 2,600 performances and activities, which were attended by more than 1.2 million people. In addition, The Arts Council of Fairfax County has been a strong supporter and sponsor of the 11th Congressional District High School Arts Competition and has been instrumental in making this program one of the most successful in the nation.

The Arts Awards honor supporters of the arts in four categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year Award, the Arts Achievement Award, the Emerging Arts Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to enter the following names of the 2013 Arts Awards Recipients into the Congressional Record:

The Jinx Hazel Arts Citizen of the Year Award is presented to The Fairfax County

Economic Development Authority, FCEDA, for its outstanding leadership and service to civic life and leadership in the arts and culture in Fairfax County. FCEDA highlights Fairfax County's rich cultural life and cosmopolitan environment through its international marketing campaigns, web site, and the presentation of opportunities in the arts to its many business prospects. FCEDA believes it is important to support organizations that enhance the overall quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County.

The Arts Achievement Award is presented to Ms. Kathryn Fredgren in recognition of 32 years of vision and leadership in bringing the highest quality dance performances of classical ballet, contemporary and modern dance, jazz, and tap dance to thousands of children and adults in Northern Virginia. Together with her husband Ken, Ms. Fredgren founded The Center Dance Company in 1981. Re-named BalletNova Center for Dance in 2009, the organization continues to be one of the most widely respected dance training centers in Northern Virginia. Upon her retirement as artistic director of BalletNova, Ms. Fredgren brought her love of children and innovative teaching to her position as dance artist-in-residence at Hunter Woods Elementary School in Reston from 2005 to 2011. She currently serves on BalletNova's board of directors.

Riverbend Opera Company, one of the two professional opera companies in Fairfax County, is the recipient of the Emerging Arts Award for its entrepreneurial and high quality arts programming. Founded in 2009, Riverbend Opera Company brings professional opera productions to Northern Virginia and provides performance opportunities to established and emerging music professionals. Through a partnership with Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Riverbend provides students with opportunities to work with music professionals, learn the background and history of operatic works, study the music in depth, and join in as chorus members during the Company's performances.

The Art Philanthropy Award is presented to Cityline Partners LLC for its outstanding support and leadership to the arts. Cityline owns, manages, and develops transit-oriented real estate holdings in Tysons and the D.C. metropolitan region. Continuing a strong tradition of philanthropy to the arts in Fairfax County, Cityline offers in-kind facility services to Traveling Players Ensemble and sponsors Celebrate Fairfax, the McLean Orchestra, and Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2013 Arts Awards and in recognizing and thanking the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

# LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2655, the misleadingly-named "Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act." This legislation would amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to reinstate a previous, failed version of the rule that was in place from 1983–1993.

Rule 11 allows for the imposition of sanctions on the plaintiff in a civil case if it is determined that a claim lacks sufficient evidence. Currently, Rule 11 allows judges to exercise discretion in determining when to impose these sanctions. This bill, H.R. 2655, mirrors the policy from 1983–1993, when Rule 11 was amended to mandate that sanctions be automatically applied regardless of the specific circumstance of a Rule 11 violation. This policy erodes judicial discretion by forcing judges to apply sanctions in every instance of a violation regardless of the merits. The effect of this change was—and would be under H.R. 2655—disastrous for our judicial system and victims alike. For this reason, the Judicial Conference, the American Bar Association, and the American Association for Justice all strongly oppose this legislation.

As the Judicial Conference Chairs wrote to Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Jr. in July, from 1983–1993, the "... mandatory sanctions provision quickly became a tool of abuse in civil litigation. Seeking to use mandatory sanctions to their advantage, aggressive lawyers filed motions for Rule 11 sanctions in response to virtually every filing in a civil case. Much time and money was spent in Rule 11 battles that had everything to do with strategic gamesmanship and little to do with underlying claims." The Judicial Conference also points out that the 1993 rule changes that corrected this misguided policy "... followed years of examination and were made on the Judicial Conference's strong recommendation, with the Supreme Court's approval, and after congressional review."

Unfortunately, we are wasting precious legislative days in this Congress re-litigating this already-solved issue. All empirical evidence from the 1983–1993 existence of the mandatory sanctions points to increased litigation costs and a distraction from the administering of justice.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2655.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during the week of October 28, 2013. If I were present, I would have voted on the following—

Rollcall #561: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R.2189, "yea";

Rollcall #562: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2011, "yea";

Rollcall #563: On ordering the Previous Question and Providing for consideration of H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act and H.R. 2347, the Retail Investor Protection Act, "nay";

Rollcall #564: On agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 992, the Swaps Regulatory Improvement Act and H.R. 2347, the Retail Investor Protection Act, "no";

Rollcall #565: On agreeing to the amendment on H.R. 2347 offered by George Miller of California, "nay";

Rollcall #566: On Motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 2347, "aye";

Rollcall #567: On passage of H.R. 2347, "aye";

Rollcall #568: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 992, "yea";

Rollcall #569: On Passage of H.R. 992, "aye";

Rollcall #570 On passage of H.J. Res. 99, "nay."

## THE PERSECUTION OF BAHAI COMMUNITY IN IRAN

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of Mr. Ataollah Rezvani, a Baha'i community leader in the port city of Bandar Abbas, Iran. In late August, Mr. Rezvani was found murdered in his car on the outskirts of the city, a gunshot to the back of his head. Before his death, he was subject to persistent threats and intimidation from agents of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence. And ultimately, his steadfast refusal to submit or cower in the face of this oppression resulted in the loss of his livelihood and his life. His only crime was the practice of his faith.

Over the last several months, the Iranian regime has taken a new and welcome posture toward the resolution of the nuclear issue. While the talks between Iran and the P5-plus-1 have not yielded an agreement, we are in a better position to come to a sustainable agreement than ever before. These efforts are welcome. However, Iran's steps toward reconciling with the global community must be paired with progress on human rights at home, and an end to religious-based persecution of Iran's Baha'i and other minority communities.

Although the Iranian authorities released 91 political prisoners in recent months, not a single Baha'i was among them. Instead, 115 Baha'is remain imprisoned, solely because of their faith, including the leadership of the "Yaran-i-Iran," or "Friends in Iran." The seven leaders of this group, which oversaw the welfare of the Iranian Baha'i community, have now each served five years of their 20-year sentences—the longest sentences given to any prisoner of conscience in Iran.

Dating back to the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Iranian government has implemented a program of active, systematic discrimination against the Baha'i community. As a result, the Baha'i have been reduced to second-class citizens within their own country, stripped of their property, denied access to an education, and deprived of the freedom to worship. All human beings are entitled to these liberties, not simply because of a statute or a constitution.

Rather, these are the basic human rights of every person, regardless of race, color, or creed, by virtue of our very humanity.

It is my fervent hope that Iran's leadership will move forward towards rapprochement with the international community, but we must also see progress toward internal reform, and a restitution of rights to all minority communities and the Baha'i citizens of Iran particularly.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY, EQUALITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY IN COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (TEACH) ACT

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Technology, Equality, and Accessibility in College and Higher Education (TEACH) Act to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to the benefits of electronic instructional materials used in today's colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities across the country are using a wide array of new technologies and instructional materials in the classroom. While the use of these new technologies is a positive development, it can also pose a challenge for accessibility. We have an obligation to ensure that students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to obtain a quality education.

The bill would require that any instructional technology, such as digital content, tablets, online platforms, interactive computer software, etc., used by a postsecondary school either be accessible to students with disabilities or that the school provide accommodations or modifications so that the ease-of-use and benefits of the technology for students with disabilities is on par with other students.

These requirements are consistent with joint guidance issued in 2010 by the Departments of Education and Justice regarding the use of new technologies in the classroom and the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The guidance was issued in response to the use of electronic book readers by some colleges and universities that were not fully accessible to visually impaired students.

To help schools meet these requirements, the TEACH Act directs the Access Board, an independent federal agency, to develop guidelines for electronic instructional materials used by institutions of higher education. Schools would not be limited to using materials or technologies that are consistent with the guidelines, but those materials that do conform to the guidelines would automatically be considered to be accessible under the law.

In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act created the Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials in Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities, otherwise known as the AIM Commission. One of the commission's recommendations was that the Access Board be directed by Congress to develop guidelines to help guide the development of accessible instructional materials in the marketplace. This bill would implement that recommendation.

For decades, schools have been required to provide equal access to all students. What this

bill would do is ensure that students with disabilities are given equal treatment now and in the future as new, innovative technologies are developed and used more often in the classroom.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this legislation.

THE PASSING OF WILLIAM J.  
COYNE

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Member of Congress William J. Coyne, who represented Pennsylvania's 14th District from 1981 until 2003. Bill passed away on November 3, 2013.

I was honored to work with Bill for eight years as members of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation from adjacent districts, and I have had the privilege of serving many of his former constituents since he retired in January 2003. I wanted to take this opportunity to remember Bill.

Bill was born on August 24, 1936. He grew up in a house on Halket Street in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood, and he lived in that house for most of his life.

Bill graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1954. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1955 through 1957. He returned to Pittsburgh after completing his military service and began working as an accountant for a trucking company. He subsequently attended Robert Morris College, graduating with a B.S. in accounting in 1965. In all, he worked as an accountant for 13 years.

Bill became involved in local politics in the 1960s, doing volunteer work on a number of local Democratic campaigns. He ran for office himself in 1970 and was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he served one term. He was elected to Pittsburgh City Council in 1973, and he served as a City Councilman from 1974 until 1980.

In 1980, Bill ran for Congress, and was elected to represent Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. At that time, the 14th District consisted of the City of Pittsburgh and a number of adjacent communities in Allegheny County. He was re-elected 10 times and represented the 14th District in Congress for 22 years from 1981 until 2003.

During his first 2 terms in Congress, Bill served on the House Banking Committee and the Committee on House Administration. He also served on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, known unofficially as the House Ethics Committee.

In 1985, he was appointed to serve on the Ways and Means Committee. In addition, from 1993 through 1998, he served on the House Budget Committee.

In the 1980s, when Bill started serving in Congress, southwestern Pennsylvania was experiencing high unemployment and economic disruption as a result of the decline of the steel industry, which up until then had been the dominant driver of the region's economy. Consequently, job creation and economic re-

development were his top priorities when he began serving in Congress and throughout his service there.

At that time, due to many young and working-age individuals leaving the region to seek work elsewhere, Pittsburgh had a disproportionately large elderly population—with more senior citizens than any Congressional District outside of Miami. As a result, Bill also focused his efforts on programs which, like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, were essential to the health and well-being of older Americans. He worked on the Ways and Means Committee, for example, to protect Americans' pensions and other retirement benefits, enact a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and oppose efforts to cut federal safety net programs.

Bill worked closely with local and state elected leaders to develop a plan for the region's renewal, which consisted of building on the region's greatest assets—its research universities, hospitals, and financial institutions—while attempting to preserve the region's remaining manufacturing base. His efforts to achieve those goals focused on federal investments in scientific and biomedical research, higher education, housing and community development, transportation, and the clean-up and redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites. He also pursued complementary tax and trade policies. He was actively involved in securing federal funding for important projects in southwestern Pennsylvania as well as efforts to preserve and expand federal programs nationwide.

With hundreds of acres of shuttered steel mills in the region, Bill worked on the Ways and Means Committee to provide tax incentives for businesses and municipalities to clean up and redevelop vacant, often polluted industrial sites—often referred to as brownfields—including a provision in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 which allowed businesses to deduct the cost of cleaning up brownfields sites in certain targeted areas. He also worked successfully to expand the brownfields tax incentive and delay its expiration date by several years. In addition, he supported legislation to create federal empowerment zones and enterprise communities, which provided tax breaks for businesses that operated in economically distressed areas.

Bill believed that the federal tax code could and should be used to create or preserve American manufacturing jobs, and he worked successfully to make the federal tax-exempt Industrial Development Bond program permanent to keep U.S. manufacturing jobs from moving overseas.

Bill also worked successfully to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding for local infrastructure projects—including reconstruction of the Drake, Library, and Overbrook trolley lines in Allegheny County and construction of an extension of the MLK Jr. Busway. He worked successfully to get local locks and dams updated—most notably, Locks and Dams 2, 3, and 4 on the Lower Monongahela River—and a flood control project built along Saw Mill Run. Bill also secured the cost-free transfer of the Hays Ammunition Plant to the City of Pittsburgh for redevelopment. He secured millions of dollars in seed money for the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University and the NASA Robotics Engineering Consortium. In addition, he worked successfully to enact a bill

designating the Steel Industry Heritage Project in Homestead as a national heritage area to preserve the region's history and culture and promote local tourism.

Bill was also an unabashed liberal—a vocal defender of workers' rights, women's rights, and gay rights as well as all of the New Deal and Great Society programs. He believed in tougher federal gun control laws—voting, for example, in support of the 1994 assault weapons ban. He opposed efforts to roll back American workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively, and he worked to expand protection for workers' rights in international trade agreements.

Bill strongly opposed efforts to cut domestic spending programs in the 1980s and 1990s, especially programs to help local governments undertake important redevelopment activities—programs like Community Development Block Grants, Urban Development Action Grants, the Economic Development Administration, and General Revenue Sharing. Bill also worked with many of his colleagues to protect federal programs that served children, senior citizens, the disabled, and working families. On the other side of the ledger, he opposed increased defense spending in the 1980s and supported deep defense cuts in the 1990s after the end of the Cold War and the demise of the Soviet Union. Bill worked on the House Ways and Means Committee to reduce the tax burden on low- and middle-income families. He was also actively involved in developing and enacting legislation to reform the Internal Revenue Service.

In 2002, Bill decided to retire at the end of his 11th term. In January of 2003, he wrapped up his career in politics and returned home to Pittsburgh. In the 10 years since then, Bill has enjoyed retirement, dividing his time between his home in Pittsburgh and a home in Ireland.

When you take into account his military service, his service in the Pennsylvania State legislature, his service on Pittsburgh City Council, and his 22 years in Congress, you can't help but conclude that Bill Coyne was a dedicated public servant. He was quiet but effective—and he was living proof that nice guys can get ahead. Bill Coyne was a credit to this institution and to his home town. Those of us who had the privilege to know him will miss him.

He is survived by his long-time companion Kathy Kozdemba, his brother Philip Coyne, Jr. and many nieces and nephews.

I'd like to include this eulogy given by his nephew Daniel Coyne at his funeral in Pittsburgh last week.

BILLY: A EULOGY FOR CONGRESSMAN BILL COYNE DELIVERED AT HIS FUNERAL, NOVEMBER 7, 2013

(By Daniel V. Coyne, Managing Editor,  
Boston Consulting Group)

Bill Coyne was my father's older brother, and I have the honor and privilege of saying a few words about who he was and the full life he lived.

Bill, or Billy as I called him, was devoted to his long-time companion Kathy; to his surviving brother Philly; to his nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family; to his faith; to the city of Pittsburgh, which he served for decades; and to his neighborhood of Oakland, which gave rise to characters, stories, and legends that made me wish I'd grown up in a different time.

He was best known, of course, for being a politician. Articles about Bill Coyne always described him as quiet. But that belied his passion and his commitment. He worked incredibly hard for the things he believed in. Economic development and opportunity, equality, measures to help the working class. He was sometimes described as an old-fashioned Democrat. I think he was very proud of that—proud to be called liberal or progressive. Not that he'd ever brag about it. Billy never cared for grandstanding, never sought the limelight.

To me, his legacy is not just about what he did, it's about how he did it. Billy was civil, sincere, genuine, and honorable. He epitomized everything that's good and noble about the title "public servant". He simply wanted to help people. He got involved in politics in the late 60s, he said, because of the conditions of the country. He wanted to make a difference. And that's what he and his dedicated staff did.

In a 1986 profile of Billy in the Pittsburgh Press, Tip O'Neill summed it up nicely: "You can get a lot done for your constituents when you have the respect and admiration of your colleagues," he said. "And Bill Coyne is one of the best liked guys down here." Incidentally, when Billy heard that the Press wanted to do a story on him, he had a one-word response: "Why?"

Billy was more than a politician. He was a kind and generous uncle. He was thoughtful and warm. He loved being with Kathy and hosting Christmas dinners with her. He loved being with his nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was happy being in Pittsburgh, living a short walk from Halket Street, where he grew up. And he was energized by the visits he and Kathy made to Ireland several times each year.

For his brother Philly's 90th birthday, a group of us travelled to Ireland. Billy and Kathy were our guides. Billy's excitement was infectious. He was like a little kid, reveling in the music, the scenery, the streetscapes, the people, being with our relatives. He wanted so much for us to be a part of it. It reminded me of how he'd treat people who visited him in Washington.

I lived there for a few years while Billy was in office. He'd sometimes sneak me and a friend onto the floor of the House of Representatives for small occasions, like the State of the Union Address. It was never to show off. Billy wasn't in the habit of trying to impress people. I just think he saw the House floor in the same way he and others who grew up in Oakland saw Forbes Field. It's historic, and it's hallowed ground. But it's sort of public property . . . you don't really need a ticket to get in. The fact that it was there was permission enough.

Billy did those sorts of things all the time. He'd go out of his way to do something if he thought it would make you happy. The fact is, Billy would go out of his way for anyone, anytime. Selfless hardly begins to describe his compassion and his sense of service. That's how he worked his job. That's how he lived his life.

His passing is a profound loss for Kathy, for Philly, and for our whole family. We were blessed to have had him in our lives, and we will miss him dearly.

There's a quote, attributed to an ancient Chinese philosopher, whom Billy was fond of. Kathy gave it to me. She said that Billy carried it around in his wallet. It obviously meant a lot to him, and I'd like to close by reading it:

A leader is best when people barely know he exists

Not so good when people obey and acclaim him

Worse when they despise him

But of a good leader who talks little, when his work is done they will say:  
"We did it ourselves"

#### HONORING REP. HELEN DELICH BENTLEY

#### HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley, a longtime member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a champion of the Port of Baltimore and a dear friend on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Congresswoman Bentley is a former journalist who worked as a reporter and editor for the Baltimore Sun, where she developed her lifelong passion for the Port of Baltimore and Chesapeake Bay. She then hosted a TV program about the Port focusing on maritime and transportation issues. She was elected to represent Maryland's Second Congressional District in 1985 and served the next four terms. She chaired the Federal Maritime Commission and became a strong advocate for responsible trade policies, the U.S. Merchant Marine fleet and, of course, American ports. As chair, she was then the fourth-highest ranking woman in federal government history, the first woman to serve in a key government position in the maritime field and the first woman appointed by a President to head a regulatory agency.

It is because of Congresswoman Bentley's decades of dedication, passion and advocacy that the Port of Baltimore will continue to prosper and provide honest, good-paying jobs to many Maryland families for generations to come. In 2006, the Port was rightly renamed the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore.

Congresswoman Bentley continues to exercise her expertise in the maritime and manufacturing industries as President and CEO of Helen Bentley & Associates, Inc. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Baltimore Museum of Industry. While too numerous to list in their entirety, Congresswoman Bentley is the recipient of countless awards and accolades. In 2006, she earned the Governor's International Leadership Award and was named the 2010 William Donald Schaefer Industrialist of the Year. She was inducted into the International Maritime Hall of Fame in 2004 and has earned 10 honorary doctorates.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Congresswoman Bentley for many years. Once political rivals, I consider her a mentor and trusted advisor, especially on maritime issues. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley. The citizens of Maryland have been lucky to have her as a champion all these years. It is with great pride that I wish her the happiest of birthdays and many more years of success.

#### HONORING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THEIR GREAT SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following law enforcement personnel who have recently been honored by the Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association for their tireless service and continued willingness to put their lives on the line to protect our communities. These honorees include: Trooper Ronnie Riggs, Deputy Greg E. Lambert, Deputy Stephen A. Moore, Officer George Bell, Sergeant Travis Short, Officer John Dixon, Investigator Greg Frenzel and Sheriff Lenny Millholland.

Senior Trooper Ronnie Riggs has served the Virginia Department of State Police for over 10 years. Working out of the state police barracks in Kernstown, Trooper Riggs has become a tremendous asset to the area through his efforts to improve public safety. Trooper Riggs' service to the community and professionalism are seriously appreciated.

Chief Deputy Travis Sumption began his career as a communications officer with the Clarke County Sheriff's Office in February 1993. In 1998, he was appointed Deputy Sheriff and after an assignment as a traffic enforcement deputy in 2004, he became the first person to hold the title of First Sergeant in Clarke County. In 2006, he worked with the Clarke County Sheriff's Office regional drug task force and supervised the general investigations and gang units. After graduating from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in 2008, he successfully managed a complex, multi-jurisdictional murder case. I wish him all the best in his new role of Chief Deputy.

Deputy Greg E. Lambert has served the Winchester Sheriff's Office since 2011. He came to the sheriff's office with previous experience with the Winchester Police Department and the U.S. Capitol Police. He excelled in his work with the "Don't Bust the Bus" operation designed to ticket offenders for passing school buses and is also involved with Project Life-saver, a program to save the lives and reduce injury of the elderly, as well as those who suffer from cognitive conditions such as Alzheimer's and autism. He is a member of the North and South End Citizens Groups, which focus on eliminating crime in the City of Winchester. Deputy Lambert's hard work and commitment to keeping citizens safe is greatly appreciated.

Deputy Stephen A. Moore serves the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. This summer he demonstrated courage when he rescued a mother of five from her burning home. He got the mother out of the house safely, and then ran back into the home when it was engulfed in flames and full of smoke to ensure that all of the children were safe. I commend him for his outstanding ability to remain calm and focused in a crisis.

Officer George Bell serves the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center and was recently honored for his remarkable efforts to prevent the escape of a high-risk inmate. Officer Bell showed resolve when he took action to address the situation and protect the civilians who would have otherwise been in grave

danger. I appreciate his hard work and service to the community.

Sergeant Travis Short serves Mount Weather Police Department. Recently, he was recognized by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and also received a Life Saving Award. In August, he was the first responder to a critical scene where an individual was in cardiac arrest and severely bleeding. He took decisive and immediate action to save the person's life. Sergeant Short's focus on training and his preparedness in crisis greatly benefit the community he serves so well.

Officer John Dixon serves the Winchester Police Department and was recently recognized for resuscitating a young woman who was suffering from an overdose. This was the second time he saved someone in critical condition. Officer Dixon is an excellent police officer and a leader among his peers—his colleagues frequently applaud the high quality of his investigations. His good police work makes him a committed role model to all those who serve.

Investigator Greg Frenzel has served the Berryville Police Department since 1997. He began his career as a patrol officer and now serves as an investigator where he conducts investigations involving major property loss and crime. Additionally, he has worked as a firearms instructor and serves with the regional Criminal Justice Academy. Berryville Chief of Police Neal White has submitted Investigator Frenzel as the 2013 nominee of the year, citing his valuable contributions to the department throughout his career. I congratulate Investigator Frenzel on this nomination and commend him for his diligent investigative work.

Sheriff Lenny Millholland has served the City of Winchester since 1979. I have known and worked with Lenny for many years. He began his career as a Cadet Deputy for the Allegany County Sheriff's Office in Maryland, where he worked for two years before accepting a position with the Winchester Police Department. During his tenure with the Winchester Police, he rose through the ranks from patrol officer, K9 Handler, Investigator, and Lieutenant for the Criminal Investigative Division, which handles murders, rapes and robberies. He is also a graduate of the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy, the Maryland State Police K9 Academy and the FBI National Academy Session 188. In 2001, he was elected Sheriff of the city of Winchester and shortly after completed the National Sheriff's Institute in Longmont, Colorado. Over the course of his term as Sheriff, he has been appointed to a number of committees and boards that service law enforcement and local non-profit organizations. He is also a past president of the Virginia Sheriffs Institute, which trains Sheriffs in Virginia. I commend Lenny on his outstanding career and thank him for his committed service to the Shenandoah Valley over the years. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

I am proud to join with the Horseshoe Benevolent Association, which has been honoring local law enforcement since 2004, to recognize these officers for their bravery, dedication and strength. We owe them a sincere debt of gratitude for their service to the 10th District.

I submit the following Winchester Star article on the Horseshoe Benevolent Association's annual police appreciation dinner.

[From The Winchester Star, Nov. 5, 2013]  
CITIZEN GROUP HONORS LOCAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT  
(By Val Van Meter)

PINE GROVE—The Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association honored eight area law enforcement personnel recently for their service to the community in 2013.

Those attending the event at the Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company in Pine Grove also gave retiring Winchester Sheriff Lenny Millholland a special tribute for his 12 years in office.

Association spokesman Jim Wink said the gathering was to recognize local police and security officers who put their lives "on the line" to protect the community.

Each of the officers honored received a plaque from the association and a certificate of appreciation from the Virginia House of Delegates, sponsored by Dels. Joe May, R-Leesburg, and Beverly Sherwood, R-Fredrick County.

Honorees were:

Frederick County Sheriffs Office Deputy Stephen A. Moore, who was on his way to a court hearing on June 18 when he saw smoke coming from a residence at 300 N. Kent St. in Winchester and learned that a child might be in the house.

Despite it not being his jurisdiction, he went to the scene—and when the mother of the child re-entered the building he followed her and brought her back out. He then re-entered the house with two city police officers, though he was unable to save the child.

Moore's boss, Sheriff Robert Williamson, said his actions are "a mirror image of what we all should be."

Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center officer George Bell, who was nominated for his actions Aug. 12 in subduing an inmate who tried to escape while being treated at the Winchester Medical Center. Bell fought off an attempt by the inmate to snatch his gun and then pursued him through the hospital and captured him in the lobby.

Mount Weather Police Department Sgt. Travis Short, who was honored for responding to a 911 call Aug. 16 for a Federal Emergency Management Agency employee in cardiac arrest. As first responder on the scene, he began measures that were credited with saving the employee's life.

Winchester Police Officer John Dixon, who was nominated for resuscitating a young woman who was suffering from a drug overdose. His action on Sept. 26 was the second time that Dixon had been able to restore someone's breathing.

State Police Trooper Ronnie Riggs, who has served on the force for more than 10 years.

Riggs, who works from the Kernstown Barracks, was praised for his "professionalism" in enforcing criminal statutes and driving safety efforts.

Clarke County Sheriffs Office Chief Deputy Travis Sumption, who joined the department as a communications officer and moved to a deputy position in 1998. Sumption was later appointed first sergeant and became one of the few members of the county's investigative unit, working with the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force and on gang activities.

Winchester Sheriffs Office Deputy Greg E. Lambert, who was cited for a number of community policing efforts including work on an enforcement program to stop drivers from passing school buses that are picking up or dropping off students.

Berryville Police Department Investigator Greg Frenzel, who was nominated for his professionalism in handling investigations, especially those involving major property loss and crimes against persons.

Clarke County Sheriff Anthony "Tony" Roper praised retiring Winchester Sheriff Lenny Millholland, who he said exemplifies the concern a sheriff should have for his community.

Roper said Millholland originally planned to study veterinary medicine at Allegany College in Cumberland, Md., but switched to criminal justice.

Millholland joined the Winchester Police Department in 1979 and moved from patrol officer to canine handler, investigator and then lieutenant for the Investigative Division.

He was elected city sheriff in 2001.

Roper said Millholland has served on numerous boards and committees in both law enforcement and for nonprofit organizations serving the community.

He is a past president of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, a nonprofit organization that handles training and education for sheriffs in the state.

Millholland received a standing ovation from the audience as he accepted a plaque from Del. May.

The Horseshoe Curve Benevolent Association is a citizens group, based in Pine Grove, which raises funds for groups and organizations that serve the community, mostly in Clarke County. Among other efforts, it supports the Blue Ridge Volunteer Fire Company and senior and handicapped residents of the Johnson-Williams Apartments, and presents a scholarship annually to a Clarke County High School senior.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF WASHINGTON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 15, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church in Macon, Georgia as the membership and leadership of the church celebrates a remarkable 175 years. The congregation of Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church will commemorate this milestone with a Celebration on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at 3:00 pm at Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church in Macon.

Tracing its roots back to the pre-Civil War era, the Church was organized around 1838 when Pastor Samuel Cassels was instructed to preach and minister to the slaves of the members of the 1st Presbyterian Church's congregation. The "African Chapel," a separate facility, was built on Fourth Street (now M.L. King Drive) but remained associated with the 1st Presbyterian Church. With a request for full independence by "African Chapel" members that was granted on May 5, 1866, the present Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church was formed. Joseph Williams, David Laney, and Robert Carter were the first Ministers ordained to serve the church following its formal establishment.

The Church had humble origins due to racial and social stratification in the post-Civil War South. With the end of the Civil War, the bells of Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church rang to celebrate emancipation. Under the pastorate of David Laney, most notably, the distinguished Gothic Revival structure of the Church was constructed.

The Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church is not only the oldest African-American congregation in the state of Georgia, but also bears the distinct honor of being one of the oldest minority congregations in the country. Named for the street on which it is located, the Church has become the primary place of worship for many generations of the most prominent black families in Macon. It also enjoys the privilege of being listed in the National Register of Historic Places in America, another indication of its importance in the local, state, and national communities.

The story of Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church, which began as a small group of slaves worshipping in a small "African Chapel" and has grown into an expansive and successful church, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church in Macon, GA for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD W. BOERS

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dick Boers, who passed from this life on Wednesday October 2, 2013. Dick's family and friends will remember him in a memorial service at the Toledo Botanical Gardens on October 15, 2013.

Dick Boers was "a man for all seasons." A horticulturalist and landscape architect, Dick was instrumental in the establishment of the Toledo Botanical Gardens, then known as Crosby Gardens. He was later named Trustee Emeritus of the Gardens' Board and was affectionately known as "Mr. Crosby." The gardens were a signature achievement in a distinguished career.

Born in 1941 in Rochester, New York, Richard Boers graduated from Cornell University. He was pursuing his graduate degree at the University of Michigan when he was recruited by the City of Toledo as a seasonal park designer. In 1965 he was named the City's Forestry Commissioner, at age 25 the youngest in the city's history and the youngest in the nation. Dick spent the next thirty years in the City of Toledo's Parks Department. A dedicated public service, Dick's efforts during his tenure were evident and everywhere. He was widely credited with "greening up" industrial Toledo. Even as he served the City and the citizens of Toledo, Dick was a respected member of several professional organizations and his talent was sought by many.

The Toledo Blade noted that "A sign in Dick's office summed up who he was, 'There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.' Philosophers' words indeed, and characteristic of Dick's wisdom.

Dick Boers' efforts of his lifetime are all around us in our city. His legacy is a gift of beautiful landscapes to be enjoyed for genera-

tions to come. When the flowering pear trees burst into bloom in early spring in downtown Toledo, and along the city's thoroughfares, we shall fondly remember Dick Boers. When the annual arts festival is held at the Toledo Botanical Gardens, we shall say thank you to Dick Boers. When native plant species like the blue lupine displace invasive species, we express appreciation to Dick Boers for beautifying our parks and environs. For every part of nature he tended and stewarded to the next generation, we say thank you always to Dick Boers.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,149,193,429,752.16. We've added \$6,522,316,380,839.08 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rolcall No. 572, I was unavoidably detained in Georgia and could not make it to Washington, DC in time to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### FURTHERING ASBESTOS CLAIM TRANSPARENCY (FACT) ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 982) to amend title 11 of the United States Code to require the public disclosure by trusts established under section 524 of such title, of quarterly reports that contain detailed information regarding the receipt and disposition of claims for injuries based on exposure to asbestos; and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 982, the misleadingly-named "FACT Act." When the Congress should be considering important legislation to replace the sequester, address our budget deficits in a balanced way, and reform our broken immigration system, we are instead using our scarce legislative time to consider this cynical, counterproductive bill that specifically targets victims suffering from diseases caused by asbestos exposure.

Under the cloak of "transparency and accountability," this legislation would needlessly force asbestos trusts to release personal claim information about victims. It would also allow asbestos defendants to demand unlimited and irrelevant information from asbestos trusts—at any point in a proceeding. The cynical intent of this provision is to burden the asbestos trusts with so many requests for information (from deep-pocketed, corporate defendants) that they will have to spend time and resources fulfilling those information requests, thus delaying trust recoveries by victims. This is especially concerning considering mesothelioma usually kills its victims within 4 to 18 months of diagnosis.

Finally, the allegations of fraud within the trust process are simply untrue. The error rate in the asbestos trust process has been shown to be less than one-half of one percent. Any examples of fraud found are rare and isolated incidents, and are aptly addressed by state courts. Simply put, this legislation is nothing but a legislative handout to the corporations that have (and continue to) subject workers to unsafe working conditions. The one-sided nature of this bill was further exposed when its supporters defeated an amendment that would have required the corporate defendants to disclose information about the location of their disease-causing asbestos products.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 982.

#### RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT RODNEY PAINTER FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Staff Sergeant Rodney D. Painter, Jr. for nearly 11 years of service to our nation in the United States Air Force.

As a member of the 19th Security Forces Squadron in Little Rock, Arkansas, Staff Sergeant Painter implemented the first Discipline and Adjustment Board and the Parole Board with First Sergeants. He coordinated with the U.S. Air Force Security Forces Center to develop a new confinement floor plan and led an extensive camera project to certify a new confinement facility that ensures the security of inmates.

Staff Sergeant Painter has been generous in his philanthropy, in the most recent year volunteering over 40 hours with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to provide guidance and mentorship to local youth. In the same year, he also volunteered over 20 hours with the United Way Homeless Shelter, strengthening the bonds between the United States Air Force and local communities. I commend Staff Sergeant Painter for his dedication to serving our nation and the Central Florida community. It is because of men and women like Staff Sergeant Painter who give of themselves to our country that we can live in a free country.



INTRODUCING THE “HONORING  
OUR FALLEN HEROES WITH DIG-  
NITY ACT OF 2013”

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes with Dignity Act of 2013.

This act protects the rights of families to leave small keepsakes at the gravesites of servicemembers buried in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery, many of whom bravely served their country in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

During the summer of 2013, officials at Arlington National Cemetery came through Section 60 and, without providing advance notice to families, threw away mementos left behind for the heroes buried in Section 60.

Teresa Arciola, a mother whose son was killed in Iraq in 2005, cried when she found out that the mementos she left at her son's gravesite had been removed. “It was like no one cared anymore,” she told The Washington Post.

The act would allow mementos to be left on the top of and immediately next to grave markers in Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery as long as they did not interfere with normal operations and maintenance procedures, such as mowing the grass.

The items can not be a health or safety hazard, be permanently affixed to gravestones, and can't interfere with normal operations of the Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery. At end of each month, items left on the grave stone will be collected, cataloged, and stored.

HONORING JAMES BRYON ADAMS,  
JR.

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life my dear friend James “Jim” Bryon Adams, Jr.—an exemplary American citizen, husband, father, and grandfather.

On November 10, Jim passed away peacefully at his home in Greensboro, North Carolina at the age of 70.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Jim was the oldest son of the late James Byron and Marie Black Adams. After graduating from Druid Hills High School, he attended Georgia Institute of Technology and joined Sigma Nu fraternity, where we became friends. Jim was a reliable friend and fraternity brother. And on top of that, he was a dedicated leader in whatever organizations he joined. While I knew him, he was a Rush Chairman of our fraternity, Captain of the Varsity baseball team, President of the Rambling Wreck Club, and a member of the ANAK honorary society.

After finishing his degree and a short stint with the Chicago Cubs minor league team in Washington State, Jim joined Deering Milliken—presently Milliken & Company—in New York City which began a long and successful career in the textile industry. He was

an executive at many companies in the industry and eventually became President of Flynt Amtex, where he retired at age 65, but continued serving on their board of directors.

Jim's friends and family will remember him as a level headed and dispassionate man who could bring a lighthearted sense of humor to every situation. He took pride in his profession, cared deeply about his family, and enjoyed golfing with his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Jim's wife Daryl, his son James, his daughter Jill, his great grandson Brayden, his brother David, and his nephew James in this time of difficulty. It saddens me to know that the world is missing an honorable and dedicated man, but I am humbled to know that he is now in a better place.

LAWSUIT ABUSE REDUCTION ACT  
OF 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2013*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2655, the so-called “Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act.”

This is a misleading title and a misleading bill. A plaintiff courageously seeking to stand up to civil rights violations, equal protections violations, or voting rights infringement IS NOT abusing anything: she's exercising her rights enshrined in the Constitution.

When I practiced law in California, I know that those I represented—from victims of workplace discrimination to women athlete scholars looking for equal opportunities—would have been hurt by this bill, and their cases may never have been heard.

Ordering sanctions should be at the discretion of the judge, not Congress. This bill would reverse the good judgment and counsel of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Supreme Court, both of which recommended the change twenty years ago.

Our Courts are a great equalizer; the courtroom is often the only place that a plaintiff can find a fair and equal footing with employers, corporations, and even their government.

This bill would have a chilling effect on the ability of Americans to find justice for civil rights violations, employment discrimination claims, privacy suits, equal protection violations, voting rights claims, consumer protection claims, and so much more.

The changes proposed in this bill would negatively impact cases where the bulk of the evidence rests with one party, disproportionately impacting plaintiffs in civil rights and consumer protection litigation.

This bill would also negatively impact civil cases that involve new legal theories, meaning that landmark cases in our nation's history may never have made it to the Supreme Court; cases like *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Griswald v. Connecticut*, *Massachusetts v. EPA*.

If my colleagues are serious about reforming the legal system, I would be very interested in working with them. There are abusive litigation tactics by both plaintiffs and defendants, and we could work in a responsible, bipartisan manner to address those. But this bill

is not a serious attempt to level the playing field or to curb real abuses. Instead, it puts Congress' thumb on one side of the scale of justice.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

HONORING RIVERDALE HIGH  
SCHOOL AND H2O FOR LIFE

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to take a moment to honor an individual who, for the last four years, has been inspiring the next generation of global water activists.

Riverdale High School teacher Laurie LePore began teaching the “H2O for Life” course as a way to introduce a service-learning component to her students' education.

At the beginning of each H2O for Life course, students select one or two schools currently lacking a proper, healthy, water source. The class is then divided into five student-led groups, each tasked with their own jobs to do, working together to raise funds for the building of wells, water purification systems, and restrooms for schools in need. Laurie also educates students about water issues in my home state of Oregon, including dam breaching, overfishing, and the impact of bottled water.

This year, her class is assisting two elementary schools in South Africa to raise \$5,000 to bring water, sanitation, and hygiene projects and practices to their schools—benefiting a total of 2,086 students. At the end of the year, eight schools from Africa, the Philippines, and India will have first-time access to water and sanitation facilities thanks to the H2O for Life class and Mrs. LePore's dedication.

Bringing water and sanitation into schools is an essential part of having an effective education system. Without adequate sanitation facilities, young girls are embarrassed to attend school and too often stay away as a result. If there isn't water in their place of learning, many children are forced to choose between providing water for themselves and their family or their education. When it's a matter of life and death or learning, school always loses out.

As the lead sponsor of the 2005 “Water for the Poor Act” and the current “Water for the World Act of 2013,” I applaud local efforts to highlight this ongoing challenge and am deeply appreciative of the impact this program has and will have not only on her students, but for the thousands of children they've helped around the world.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on November 12, 2013, I missed rollcall votes No. 571 and 572 for district business. Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on both.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

This Sunday around the world, millions will pause to remember those who have died or been injured in road crashes. Every year, the list of those injured and suffering as a result of road crashes grows. This tragedy is increased by the fact that many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented. This is a growing global epidemic predominantly impacting young people. More than 40 percent of all road traffic deaths occur among individuals under 25 years old and road crashes are the second leading cause of death for young people aged 5–25 years.

Promoting global road safety requires a focus on education, advocacy and support for targeted road safety projects in low and middle income countries where the problem is more prevalent. That is why I have been a long supporter of the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT).

ASIRT encourages governments in developing nations to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries through dialogue, research and advocacy. ASIRT encourages and promotes U.S. government involvement in road safety abroad by emphasizing the importance of sharing U.S. technical assistance and injury treatment expertise with other nations and international organizations. ASIRT also works closely with the Congressional Global Road Safety Caucus to raise awareness among members of Congress about this urgent problem and with U.S. embassies abroad to promote road safety initiatives in host countries.

I want to congratulate ASIRT for being selected to participate in the new Bloomberg Global Road Safety Initiative. This initiative will devote \$125 million over five years to fund road safety interventions in 10 target countries around the globe. ASIRT is the only non-governmental organization among the Bloomberg partners on this project. ASIRT will work to strengthen NGO capacity in target countries through grassroots programs and is currently working on programs in Egypt, Kenya, and Turkey with plans of expanding to other countries.

World Remembrance Day is a time for the public to think about the devastating loss and suffering that still occurs because of road crashes and reminds us of how much more we must still do to bring this suffering to an end.

HONORING NANCY ELLEN VOILS-  
FIELD

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Nancy Ellen Voils-Field of Salem, Virginia, who went to be with her Heavenly Father on November 8, 2013.

Nancy met her husband, Robert Field, as a teenager. They moved to Salem in 1972, following 20 years of Army life. Nancy, a devout Latter-Day Saint, spent much of her time working to serve her Heavenly Father and assist those in need.

Those who knew her are well aware of her long-time participation in 4-H and Extension Homemakers, and of her involvement in Scouting. I had the pleasure of working with Nancy for a number of years in the Boy Scouts of America, Blue Ridge Mountains Council, Catawba District. Whenever a task needed to be done, Nancy would wait to see if anyone else would step forward. If no one else volunteered, we could always count on Nancy to say, "Well, I could probably do that." It was widely known in the community that Nancy Field was a quiet leader who would get the job done.

Nancy loved music, gardening, and quilting. Over the years, I always enjoyed looking at her many award-winning entries in the Salem Fair.

Nancy leaves behind her husband of 62 years, Robert, and a sister, Mary Lou Voils. Also surviving are four children David Field and his wife Marianne of Columbus, Mississippi, Sharon Crenshaw of Roanoke, Robert (Brian/Rob) Field, of Naples, Florida, Charles (Rich) Field and his wife Dawn, of Salem; and four grandchildren.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy's family and loved ones. She will be greatly missed. Her love for her family, friends, and community will always be remembered and cherished in Salem.

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING  
THE LOUISIANA BUSINESS AND  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

**HON. BILL CASSIDY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Louisiana Business & Technology Center (LBTC), located on Louisiana State University's South Campus in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to join with the LBTC in commemorating and celebrating 25 years of dedicated service to the business community in the State of Louisiana.

Over the past 25 years, the LBTC has partnered with small businesses and entrepreneurs to help them reach their goals of longevity and self-sufficiency. Under the leadership of Executive Director Charles D'Agostino and his team, the LBTC has created over 10,000 jobs and helped start up companies raise \$172 million in loans and equity investments. Additionally, the LBTC has been instrumental in providing Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant assistance to over 2,500 companies amounting to \$77 million in awards. Finally, the Center has enlisted the support of LSU's student body in creating a Student Incubator which has spawned 28 full time businesses with 97 jobs and has raised over \$3 million in capital since 2010.

Based upon the LBTC's long record of accomplishment and achievement, they have obtained the reputation of being known as one of the best entrepreneurial launchpads in the

State. On behalf of the residents of Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District, I congratulate the Louisiana Business and Technology Center on the tremendous contribution it has had in fostering and developing small businesses which are a vital component to our Nation's economy.

HONORING LEBANON ON ITS 70TH  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. RICHARD L. HANNA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, one week from today, on November 22, 2013, the Lebanese people will come together to celebrate the 70th Independence Day of Lebanon. As a proud Lebanese-American, I extend my congratulations on this momentous occasion to President Sleiman, Caretaker Prime Minister Mikati, Speaker Berri, and all citizens of Lebanon and those around that world who proudly claim Lebanese heritage.

For seventy years, Lebanon has exemplified its rich history of multiethnic heritage and cohesion through its ability to bring together populations that enjoy the freedom to show their diversity in areas such as their religious practices while remaining bound together through their love for a unified and sovereign Lebanese nation. The National Pact that set the foundation for the Lebanese state in 1943 established a framework of independence, diversity, inclusion, and unity that have endured through these last seventy years as the keystones of a strong and lasting sovereign nation.

The Lebanese people have not only contributed to outstanding and continuing achievements within Lebanon and the Middle East, but all around the world. Here in the United States of America, the early Lebanese Americans who arrived in the 19th century quickly established strong communities built on the foundation of strong work ethic, ingenuity, and cultural integration. Those characteristics continue to define today's generation of Lebanese Americans who make up the largest demographic of Arab Americans at 26.9 percent according to the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent American Community Survey. I am honored that many of these Lebanese-American families have chosen to call New York—and especially Upstate—home. I embrace all of the positive contributions that they continue to make every day in our society.

Today, the role that Lebanon plays within the world and the Middle East is as important as ever, and it is of upmost importance that it endure as a beacon of hope and a truly independent ally and nation free from the instability, foreign influence, and war that have engulfed its Syrian neighbor. The strength of the people of Lebanon and their leaders has been demonstrated through their ability to remain resilient and united even in the midst of a regional crisis that has displaced 814,002 Syrian refugees as of November 12, 2013, into more than 1,400 Lebanese communities. It is imperative that the United States continue to support Lebanon as it grapples with these difficult times and maintains its strength through whatever may lie in the days and years ahead.

Given all that Lebanon has been through these past 70 years, it is important that this



day of independence be celebrated for all that have called Lebanon home and those abroad who are proud to be defined by the Lebanese history and heritage that contributes to the character of both individuals and nations around the world.

**IN RECOGNITION OF SAINT JAMES  
A.M.E. CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Saint James A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 150 years. The congregation of St. James A.M.E. Church will celebrate this very significant anniversary with a worship celebration on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at the Church at 1002 Sixth Avenue in Columbus, Georgia.

Tracing its roots back to the Civil War era, the St. James congregation emerged from the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with Reverend William Gaines serving as the first pastor in 1864. Today, the physical body of the church serves as a reflection and memorial of past members and pastors who contributed to its preservation. On September 29, 1980, the church was listed on the National Historic Register.

In an 1873 act, the Georgia Legislature granted St. James A.M.E. Church the land on which it stands and the first cathedral construction was completed in 1876. The ornately carved front doors, built by slaves, are the oldest parts of the church and are a reminder of the history of strength and perseverance behind the congregation.

Since its founding, St. James has endured several additions and renovations, all of which help tell the story of the church, its members and its fifty-one former leaders. In 1886, Reverend Larry Thomas oversaw the construction of the bell tower, which still stands today as a symbol of the Church's concrete mission to serve its congregation and community. Reverend Harold I. Bearden, who served from 1940 to 1948, installed the pipe organ that is still heard during church services today.

In 1988, St. James purchased property for a new parsonage, and by 1996, the conversion of the old parsonage into an administrative building was completed under the leadership of Reverend Scottie Swinney. The building now houses offices, a conference room, music room, clothing and food bank, and archives room, which collectively aid in the fulfillment of the church ministry. After Reverend Swinney's tenure, Reverend Richard Washington was pastor of the church. The church is now pastored by Reverend Joseph Baker, Sr.

In 2004, St. James erected an Elevator Tower to accommodate all members of the congregation. The building includes classrooms, accessible bathrooms, a stewardess room, and an elevator that services the Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary. To commemorate this achievement, a time capsule was deposited behind the Elevator Tower cornerstone to be opened in 2054.

Throughout all of these changes, the church has consistently maintained its presence as a center for spiritual, educational, professional, and civic gatherings within the African American community.

The second oldest church of its denomination in Georgia, St. James A.M.E. Church has served as pillar of faith and community for 150 years. The spirit within the congregation and their commitment to the growth of St. James is both admirable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Saint James A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia for their dedication to helping one another, serving the community, and above all, worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**HONORING RESIDENTS OF THE  
VILLAGE OF LYONS 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCORPORATION**

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Village of Lyons, Illinois, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Lyons enjoys a long and colorful history, beginning in the late 17th century when the explorers Louis Joliet and Father Pierre Marquette began their quest for a western passage to the Pacific. After deciding to return home to Green Bay, Wisconsin, the explorers learned about a path from the Pottawatomie Native Americans traveling with them, a path that connected the Chicago and the Des Plaines Rivers, and included the future site of the Village of Lyons. Two hundred years later this swampy path would become the Illinois & Michigan Canal, one of the most important canals in the history of the United States, and a primary reason why Chicago became the nation's transportation hub. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which replaced the Illinois & Michigan Canal, remains a critical link between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes.

As Chicago grew so did Lyons, but the residents never forgot the historically important site on which their Village was founded and built. Today, a statue stands at the Chicago Portage National Historic Site to honor that history.

Along the banks of the Des Plaines River sits another historic site, the Hofmann Tower. Built in 1908, the tower sits next to the former site of an electric dam Hofmann built and was meant to attract visitors to the area to enjoy the river and its banks. In 1978, Hofmann Tower was named to the National Register of Historic Places and Mayor Getty is currently working on plans to restore it.

I am proud to represent the Village of Lyons as it prospers today under the leadership of Mayor Chris Getty. On November 15, I will join the mayor and the residents of Lyons at Crystal Sky Banquets to celebrate the village's 125th anniversary.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the residents of Lyons, Illinois on the 125th anniversary of their village. May they enjoy this weekend's celebration and may the village continue to thrive as a close community.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN C.W.  
BILL YOUNG

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous sadness that I mourn the passing of Chairman C.W. Bill Young—an inspiring colleague and an outspoken champion for the United States Military. His passing will leave an enormous void in the U.S. House of Representatives where he has served for 43 years and was admired and respected for his strength, leadership and unwavering commitment to military strength and freedom around the world.

It was my honor to serve with him as a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. As the longest serving Republican in the House and former Chairman of the Full Appropriations Committee, he was true inspiration to me and every Member who had the privilege to serve our country alongside him. I will miss Chairman Young as a colleague and a friend.

I extend my heartfelt prayers and condolences to Chairman Young's family, especially his wife Beverly, who was his constant companion, champion of military families, and a true inspiration in her own right. The U.S. House of Representatives and the United States of America has lost a hero and he will be sadly missed.

**70TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEBANON'S  
INDEPENDENCE**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Lebanese American communities in our district, who are celebrating the 70th anniversary of Lebanon's independence. On November 22, 1943, Lebanon obtained its independence from France. Shortly thereafter, Lebanon became a founding member of both the United Nations and League of Arab States. Signaling its commitment to the idea that human rights were global and that it was ready to be a full partner in the post World War II world, Lebanon participated in the drafting of one of the UN's most distinguished documents—the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United States and Lebanon have been blessed by a historically strong friendship, owing in part to the emigration of Lebanon's sons and daughters. They embraced America and followed the words expressed by the poet Kahlil Gibran, that "To be a good citizen is to acknowledge the other person's rights before asserting your own, but always to be conscious of your own." The contributions of those early immigrants and those who followed helped to build our nation.

Since 1965, over 135,000 new immigrants have come from Lebanon. Ohio has one of the largest Lebanese American communities in our nation and our citizens are richer for it. The Lebanese community willingly shares its culture and values; the result has been innumerable contributions to the arts, sports, medicine, politics, education, science and industry.

In fact, Toledo, Ohio became the first major city in America to elect a citizen of Lebanese ancestry to the position of Mayor, Mr. Michael Damas who served with distinction.

As one of the world's early cradles of civilization, Lebanon has persevered, both suffering hardship and sharing in prosperity. Remarkably, the spirit of its people shines through. I join the people of Lebanon, those of Lebanese ancestry around the world, and the Lebanese American community in celebrating Lebanese Independence Day.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ROBERT  
"BOB" KEHLER

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate General Robert "Bob" Kehler of United States Strategic Command on his retirement from the Air Force after 38 years of outstanding service to our country. I would also like to thank his wife Marjorie for her selfless sacrifice throughout his career, as well as the sacrifices of their two sons, Matt and Jared.

General Kehler's nearly three years as the head of STRATCOM caps an accomplished career that began in 1975 as a distinguished graduate of the Pennsylvania State University Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. Early in his service, he developed expertise in the nuclear enterprise as commander of Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile squadrons at Whiteman Air Force Base, the 30th Space Wing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base, and at Air Force Space Command.

The General held numerous additional leadership positions in the Air Force throughout his many years of service. He represented the Secretary of the Air Force on Capitol Hill as the Legislative Liaison and was point man for the President's intercontinental ballistic missile modernization initiative. After his time on Capitol Hill, General Kehler assumed the position of Director of the National Security Space Office and was tasked with integrating a number of our military's space organizations.

General Kehler has been a forward-thinking leader as evidenced by his achievement transferring the ICBM mission to the Air Force Global Strike Command and helping to create the 24th Air Force to execute the evolving and critical cyberspace mission. With his important work in these areas, there is no doubt that the United States is more prepared today to face the challenges and threats confronting us in the nuclear and cyber domains.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the good fortune to work with General Kehler on a number of occasions as the U.S. Representative for Strategic Command's headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. He is a brilliant thinker and I know that he has contributed immeasurably to STRATCOM's global missions.

It is my distinct honor to lead my fellow Members of Congress in thanking General Robert "Bob" Kehler for his exceptional years of service and to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

COLORADO HAS THE SECOND  
LARGEST AEROSPACE ECONOMY  
IN THE UNITED STATES

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of myself and my fellow members of the Colorado delegation, Representatives DIANA DEGETTE, CORY GARDNER, DOUG LAMBORN, ED PERLMUTTER, JARED POLIS, and SCOTT TIPTON, about our home state's aerospace leadership and the long-term plan for sustaining America's space-faring future. Space technologies benefit the everyday lives of all American citizens and Colorado has the second largest aerospace economy in the United States. In our great state, there are more than 165,000 employees of the aerospace industry, eight of the nation's top aerospace contractors, over 400 space-related companies, four space-related military commands, and universities among the world's best for aerospace-related degrees.

The United States has lost the ability to put people into space with our own national assets at the end of NASA's Space Shuttle program. Colorado is key to regaining the ability for manned space exploration with programs such as Lockheed Martin's Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, Sierra Nevada Space Systems' "Dream Chaser" and other low-earth orbit missions aboard United Launch Alliance vehicles. Colorado was a significant contributor to one of the premier space events of this decade. The Mars Science Laboratory "Curiosity" mission, is at the center of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite technology, and is also a national leader developing satellites that support and protect our nation's civil, commercial and national security interests.

Colorado seeks to remain on the leading edge of America's space-faring future, pursuing designation as a commercial spaceport and leading advocacy for America's space exploration through organizations like the Space Foundation, Colorado Space Coalition, Colorado Space Business Roundtable, and Colorado's Official Air & Space Museum, Wings Over the Rockies.

Wings Over the Rockies' Spreading Wings Gala on November 16, 2013 will gather hundreds of aerospace executives and enthusiasts to honor leading advocates for America's space-faring future—Astronaut Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., second man to walk on the Moon, and Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, noted astrophysicist and host of the forthcoming "Cosmos" television series.

It is imperative that we strive to preserve and enhance United States leadership in space to inspire young people, spur innovation, and ensure continued national and economic security. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we thank Astronaut Aldrin and Dr. Tyson for their positive vision of our space-faring future and commend Wings Over the Rockies and all of Colorado's aerospace community for their commitment to exploring new horizons in the frontier of space for the benefit of generations of American citizens.

HONORING COLUMBIA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Columbia Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, located in my congressional district, for receiving the Department of Education's prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

Established in 1898 in the heart of the city, Columbia Elementary School is one of Colorado Springs's first elementary schools. Its mission statement defines the core learning objectives of the school:

The Columbia Community will collaboratively ensure that learning takes place for ALL by being responsible, setting high standards and accepting no excuses. Our students will be contributing members of society who are respectful, responsible, and capable lifelong learners.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at exceptionally high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' academic achievement. A National Blue Ribbon School's flag overhead has become a mark of excellence in education recognized by everyone from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities.

The program recognizes schools in one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

Columbia Elementary is an "Exemplary Improving School," but it hadn't always been that way, and there is an extraordinary story behind this. Prior to the arrival of the current school Principal, Karen Shaw, five years ago, the Colorado Springs School District had placed the school on "Technical Assistance" status, because the statistical data about academic achievement indicated "low achievement and low growth for a period of several years." Teachers were working hard, but it wasn't organized or aligned, and kids weren't succeeding. Ms. Shaw changed all of that. She brought a small handful of teachers with her from her previous school and through ingenuity and hard work implemented new curriculum and interventions, schedules and methodologies, data procedures and trainings to change the entire culture of the school. So, in five years this extraordinary school has been transformed from "Technical Assistance" to a "National Blue Ribbon School." This new approach transformed "Low Achievement and Low Growth" test scoring to "High Achievement and High Growth."

I am so proud to have a school of this quality in my Congressional District. The strengths of Columbia are its staff, students, families and community. Teachers embrace using data

to improve instruction, which ultimately has led to increased student achievement. The staff leads by example by being life-long learners themselves! They take advantage of multiple professional development opportunities including active engagement strategies, differentiated instruction, Positive Behavior Supports and Response to Intervention—where Columbia is exemplary at both RTI and PBS implementation.

The teachers at Columbia work over the summer for credit to learn curriculum and create materials for students. They offer numerous after-school activities for students that range from yoga to math club. The staff and teachers' commitment inspires a strong work ethic and exemplary attitude. Students at Columbia are respectful, responsible, safe and kind. As a result, discipline problems have dramatically declined in the past four years, and now teachers have more time to teach. The Award's effect on schools and communities is powerful. As one principal recalls, "The National Blue Ribbon begins a process you cannot stop."

Many National Blue Ribbon Schools find they attract business partners, financial assistance and volunteers. If school choice is an option, as it is at Columbia, student applications to National Blue Ribbon Schools increase. National Blue Ribbon School principals and teacher leaders are called on to give presentations at state, regional, and professional meetings about the practices that have made a difference for their students and faculty. District and state educators visit these model schools to learn about promising leadership and instructional strategies.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such a fine school and want to recognize the accomplishment of Columbia Elementary School, its teachers and staff, and the students who so richly deserve this coveted Blue Ribbon School Award.

---

INTRODUCING TWO BILLS RELATED TO POST-9/11 EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce two important legislation that would make common-sense reform to Section 3319 of title 38 of the United States pertaining to post-9/11 educational assistance, also known as "Post-9/11 GI Bill." I supported the creation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill because the brave men and women in uniformed services deserve our nation's support in attaining education. I have heard from many constituents who are benefiting from this worthy program. I have also heard from some who say that the law needs to be amended to ensure that the benefits are fully used.

My first bill, Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Enhancement Act, would expand the authority of veterans to transfer post-9/11 educational assistance to dependents within five years of separation from the uniformed services. Currently, members of the uniformed services must transfer their benefits to their

dependent before leaving the services. My bill would give veterans more time to ascertain whether or not life circumstance dictates the need to transfer the educational benefits to their dependents. The goal is to ensure that more people can take advantage of the educational assistance.

My second bill, Increased Age Limit for Post-9/11 Education Assistance Dependents Act, would increase the age limit to use transferred post-9/11 educational assistance from 26 years old to 29 years old. This is again intended to capture more beneficiaries of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, particularly those who are pursuing medical school or other professional degrees where the typical age of entry is higher than other degrees.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support these two measures so that we can better serve our veterans and military families.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2013*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 571, I was unavoidably detained in Georgia and could not make it to Washington, DC in time to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."